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Unmarked American medium and long-range reconnaissance aircraft are now penetrating deep into mainland China. American military sources here have privately confirmed these flights to NBC News. Long-range Okinawa based Lockheed U-2 class aircraft as well as carrier-based Douglas Sky Raiders carry fantastically sensitive photo and air sample equipment on these missions. They range from North Vietnam in Red held areas of Laos across China to North Korea. Red Chinese are well aware of these operations but have made no public protest. Officially these operations are denied by American officials but confident American officers have told me there will be no repetition of the Frances Powers case. They emphasize new pilot personnel screening and month-long self-destruction courses. These officials point out the Red Chinese have no missiles capable of anywhere close to plus 70,000 feet, and the Red Chinese geography simplifies gliding out of Red territory in case of mechanical failure.

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